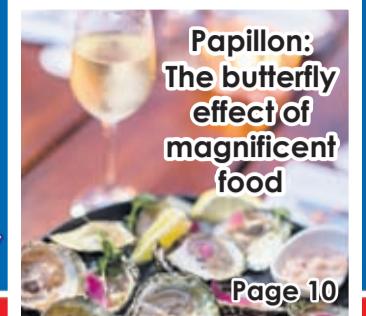




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Concert victims included 9th-grader, 'life of the party'

By RANDALL CHASE and MIKE CATALINI Associated Press

As young as a high school freshman and from as far away as Washington state. Authorities on Monday released the identities of the eight people who died after fans at the Astroworld music festival in Houston suddenly pushed forward when rapper Travis Scott came on stage.

Harris County officials did not release the cause and manner in which the victims died. Michele Arnold, a spokeswoman with the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences that conducts all autopsies in Harris County, said in a statement it could be weeks before that information is available.

A picture of some of the people who died emerged over the weekend as their families and friends shared stories with reporters and on social media.

The dead ranged from 14 to 27 years old, according to Houston officials. As of Sunday, 13 people remained hospitalized. Harris County officials said Monday they didn't have updated information on those who were hospitalized.

City officials have said they are in the early stages of investigating what caused the pandemonium at the sold-out event founded by Scott and attended by about 50,000 fans.

Continued on next page



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Continued from Front

'LOVED HIS MOM'

Franco Patino, 21, was working toward a mechanical engineering technology degree at the University of Dayton, with a minor in human movement biomechanics, his father, Julio Patino, told The Associated Press. He was a member of Alpha Psi Lambda, a Hispanic interest fraternity, and the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, and was working in an engineering co-op program.

Patino described his son as a charismatic, energetic leader who was active in his community and intent on helping people with disabilities. His son was working on a new medical device and wanted to find a way to help his mother walk again after she was severely injured in an automobile accident in Mexico two years ago, Patino said.

Through tears, Patino described how his son — who enjoyed weight lifting, football and rugby — used his strength to break a door and free his mom from the wreckage.

"He loved his mom," Patino said. "He said everything that he was doing, it was trying to help his mom. The entire goal."

Julio Patino, of Naperville, Illinois, was in London on business when the phone rang around 3 a.m. He

answered it and heard his wife, Teresita, crying. She said someone had called from a hospital about Franco and that a doctor would be calling her soon. After 30 minutes, she called back with the doctor on the line.

"The doctor was giving us the news that our son had passed away," Patino said. Patino said he had last spoken with his son about 2 p.m. Friday, when he reassured his father he was fine. "I just said, 'OK, just be careful,'" Patino said.

'HUGE HOLE IN OUR LIVES'

Jacob "Jake" Jurinek, 20, was a junior at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, where he was "pursuing his passion for art and media," his family said in a statement Sunday. He was just a over two weeks short of his 21st birthday.

He was attending the concert with Patino, his friend and former high school football teammate, according to Patino's father, Julio Patino. He was deeply committed to his family and was known as "Big Jake" by his younger cousins.

He will be missed by his father, Ron Jurinek, with whom Jake became especially close after his mother died in 2011.

"In the decade since, Jake and Ron were inseparable — attending White Sox and Blackhawks games, sharing

their love of professional wrestling, and spending weekends with extended family and friends at Jake's favorite place, the family cottage in Southwestern Michigan," the family's statement said.

"We are all devastated and are left with a huge hole in our lives," his father, Ron Jurinek, added in an emailed statement.

'GOOD STUDENT, ATHLETE, SO POLITE'

Memorial High School ninth-grader John Hilgert, 14, was the youngest of those who died. Mourners began tying green ribbons around trees at the school over the weekend in his memory. He was at the concert with classmate Robby Hendrix, whose mother, Tracy Faulkner, spoke with the Houston Chronicle. The boys had hoped to get a good spot to watch the show.

"Everything about that night was a tragedy," Faulkner told the newspaper. "John was a good student and athlete and so polite. He was the sweetest and smartest young man."

'LIFE OF THE PARTY'

Madison Dubiski, 23, lived in Houston. She was a varsity cheerleader in high school and member of a community service group called the National Charity League, according to a former classmate who spoke

to the Houston Chronicle. "She was definitely the life of the party and loved by so many people," Lauren Vogler told the newspaper. She was her mom's best friend and she loved watching her brother play sports, family friend Claudia Sierra told the Chronicle.

'HARD-WORKING MAN'

Mirza "Danish" Baig, who identified himself on Facebook as a district manager for AT&T, and appeared to be a devoted Dallas Cowboys fan, was among those who died at the concert, his brother Basil Baig said on Facebook.

"He was (an) innocent young soul who would always put others before him. He was a hard-working man who loved his family and took care of us. He was there in a heartbeat for anything."

He always had a solution to everything," Basil Baig told ABC News.

Baig's funeral was held Sunday in Colleyville in the Dallas-Forth Worth area. Messages left with Basil Baig were not returned.

County officials identified him as Mirza Baig, but his brother said on Facebook he went by Danish. He was 27.

LOVED TO DANCE

Brianna Rodriguez's family told People magazine that she was among those who perished at the con-

cert. She was 16, a student at Heights High School and loved dancing, according to the family the magazine spoke with. Her family has not responded to a message left by AP.

COMPUTER SCIENCE STUDENT

Axel Acosta, 21, was a computer science major at Western Washington University. His father, Edgar Acosta, told KOMO-TV his son was among the victims who died at the festival. The school in Bellingham, Washington, released a statement Sunday: "By all accounts, Axel was a young man with a vibrant future. We are sending our condolences to his family on this very sad day."

ASPIRING BORDER AGENT

Rodolfo "Rudy" Pena, 23, of Laredo, Texas, was a student at Laredo College and wanted to be Border Patrol agent, his friend Stacey Sarmiento said. She described him as a people person. Officials identified him as Rodolfo Pena, but friends called him Rudy.

"Rudy was a close friend of mine," she said. "We met in high school. He was an athlete. ... He brought happiness anywhere he went. He was easy to get along with. It was like positive vibes from him at all times."

"We all came to have a good time ... it was just horrible in there," she added. □

Railroads fight with unions in court over vaccine mandates



By JOSH FUNK AP Business Writer

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Another major railroad has gone to court to determine whether it has the authority to require all its employees to get vaccinated against the coronavirus.

BNSF railroad filed a lawsuit Sunday against its major unions over its mandate. It joins Norfolk Southern and Union Pacific, which both

filed similar lawsuits against the unions last month. The unions, which have filed some of their own lawsuits in response, argue that the railroads should have negotiated with them before imposing their mandates.

The railroads that have imposed vaccine mandates say they are complying with President Joe Biden's executive order requiring all federal contractors

to have their employees vaccinated. The railroads are not alone in facing resistance to vaccine mandates. Similar rules have generated disputes in a variety of workplaces.

BNSF said in its lawsuit that it regularly updates its requirements for workers when federal regulations change, so the vaccine mandate should be no different. □

Vaccine proof required as strict mandate takes effect in LA

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — People entering a wide variety of businesses in the city of Los Angeles began having to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination on Monday as one of the country's strictest measures intended to slow spread of the coronavirus took effect.

The new rule covers businesses ranging from restaurants to shopping malls and theaters to nail and hair salons.

At Blue Bottle Coffee in the Los Feliz neighborhood, a sign on the front door reminds patrons that they must show proof of vaccination if they want to eat indoors.

Manager Matthew Cadena said the morning rush was mostly smooth as customers handed over their vaccine cards or showed photos of them on their cellphones. Some patrons had put an image of their vaccine card on their phones' home screen.

"Most people are accommodating and understanding," Cadena said.

Only a handful of people saw the mandate as "nonsensical," Cadena said, and they were directed to outdoor tables with a to-go order if they did not show vaccine proof.

Los Angeles is among a growing number of cities across the U.S., including San Francisco and New York City, requiring people show proof of vaccination to enter various types of businesses and venues. But rules in the nation's second-most-populous city, called SafePassLA, apply to more types of businesses and other indoor locations including museums and convention centers.

They are being implemented as new cases have started inching up following a sharp decline from an August peak driven by the delta variant.

This was the time of year in 2020 when the worst spike of the pandemic was just beginning in California, which by January saw an average of 500 people die every day. Los Angeles became the state's epicenter



and its hospitals were so overloaded with patients that ambulances idled outside with people struggling to breathe, waiting for beds to open.

So many people died that morgues reached capacity and refrigerated trucks were brought in to handle the overflow. That stark scene played out as coronavirus vaccines arrived and California and Los Angeles moved aggressively to inoculate people.

Among LA county's roughly 10 million people, 80% of eligible residents now have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose and 71% of those eligible are fully vaccinated, according to public health officials.

To guard against anything resembling the January carnage, the LA City Council voted 11-2 last month for the ordinance that requires people 12 and older to be fully vaccinated to enter indoor public spaces including sports arenas, museums, spas, indoor city facilities and other locations.

Negative coronavirus tests within 72 hours of entry to those establishments would be required for people with religious or medical exemptions for vaccinations. Customers without proof can still use outdoor facilities and can briefly enter a

business to use a restroom or pick up a food order.

While the order took effect Monday, city officials say they won't start enforcing it until Nov. 29 to give businesses time to adjust. A first offense will bring a warning but subsequent ones could produce fines running from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, who tested positive for the coronavirus last week while attending the United Nations climate change conference in Scotland, said the mandate will encourage more people to get shots and make businesses safer for employees and customers.

"Vaccinating more Angelenos is our only way out of this pandemic, and we must do everything in our power to keep pushing those numbers up," Garcetti said.

Business trade groups say the mandate will sow confusion because Los Angeles County's own vaccine rules — which apply to dozens

of surrounding communities — are less sweeping. Cities are allowed to pass rules more stringent than the county's.

"There's a tremendous lack of clarity," said Sarah Wiltfong, senior policy manager at the Los Angeles County Business Federation. For example, most retail shops are exempt. "But shopping malls and shopping centers are included, which of course includes retail shops," she said. Harassment of workers who are tasked with verifying vaccination is the top concern of the business federation's members, Wiltfong said.

"This puts employees in a potential position of conflict, when they're not necessarily trained to handle situations like that," she said. In interviews last week, yoga studio owner David Gross said he felt relief in knowing he and his co-owner wouldn't have to unilaterally decide whether to verify their customers are

vaccinated, while in another part of town, the manager of a struggling nail salon felt trepidation and expected to lose customers. "This is going to be hard for us," Lucila Vazquez said. Salons were especially hard hit during the pandemic and were among the last businesses to reopen indoors. Before the pandemic, Lynda Nail Salon in the Los Feliz neighborhood was regularly filled with clients for hair and nail appointments. On Wednesday morning, only one woman waited for her hair to set.

Vazquez, who manages the business, said she will follow the new rules even though many of her hair clients have said they won't come in if it requires being vaccinated.

Gyms and yoga studio like the one co-owned by Gross also fall under the order. He doesn't relish having his employees play the role of enforcer, checking every customer's vaccination status. But now that the rule is on the books, it's one less decision he and his partner Lydia Stone have to make as they navigate Highland Park Yoga back to in-person classes.

In anticipation of the new rules, the studio last month started encouraging its regular customers to submit their vaccine cards online so they don't have to show them at the start of every class. Gross and Stone said it would be heartbreaking to turn away anyone.

"You know, the City Council decided, the mayor signed it, and we have no choice but to comply with the law," Gross said, adding that the possibility of being punished for violating the law "would be hugely detrimental" to a yoga business that is barely surviving after being shut down for the bulk of the pandemic. □

Shooting victim says he was pointing his gun at Rittenhouse

Associated Press

KENOSHA, Wis. (AP) — A protester and volunteer medic wounded on the streets of Kenosha by Kyle Rittenhouse testified Monday that he was pointing his own gun at the rifle-toting Rittenhouse when the young man shot him.

Gaige Grosskreutz, the third and final man gunned down by Rittenhouse with a rifle during a night of turbulent racial-justice protests in the summer of 2020, took the stand at Rittenhouse's murder trial and recounted how he drew his own pistol to try to stop the bloodshed.

"I thought the defendant was an active shooter," the 27-year-old Grosskreutz said. Asked what was going through his mind as he drew closer to the 17-year-old Rittenhouse, he said, "That I was going to die."

Rittenhouse shot and seriously wounded him in the arm, tearing away much of Grosskreutz's bicep.

Prosecutor Thomas Binger asked Grosskreutz why he didn't shoot first.

"That's not the kind of person that I am. That's not why I was out there," he said. "It's not who I am. And definitely not somebody I



would want to become." But under cross-examination by one of Rittenhouse's lawyers, Grosskreutz answered "correct" when asked if his pistol was pointed at Rittenhouse just before Rittenhouse fired. Rittenhouse, now 18, is on trial on charges of killing two men and wounding Grosskreutz. The one-time police youth cadet from Antioch, Illinois, had gone to Kenosha with an AR-style semi-automatic rifle and a medical kit in what he said was an effort to safeguard property from the damaging demonstrations that broke out over the shoot-

ing of Jacob Blake, a Black man, by a white Kenosha police officer.

Prosecutors have portrayed Rittenhouse as the instigator of the bloodshed. His lawyers have argued that he acted in self-defense. He could get life in prison if convicted of the most serious charges against him. Grosskreutz said he had gone to the protest in the streets of Kenosha that night to serve as a volunteer medic. Grosskreutz said he was wearing a hat that said "paramedic" and was carrying medical supplies, in addition to a loaded pistol.

Grosskreutz said his permit to carry a concealed weapon had expired and he did not have a valid permit that night.

"I believe in the Second Amendment. I'm for people's right to carry and bear arms," he said, explaining why he was armed. "And that night was no different than any other day. It's keys, phone, wallet, gun."

He said he went into action

after seeing Rittenhouse kill a man just feet away — the second person Rittenhouse fatally shot that night.

On cross-examination,

defense attorney Corey Chirafisi sought to portray

Grosskreutz as dishonest in his description of the moments right before he was shot, with Chirafisi asserting that Grosskreutz was chasing Rittenhouse with his gun out.

Grosskreutz denied he was chasing Rittenhouse and said that he was concerned about Rittenhouse's safety after seeing others chase him and someone try to kick him.

Chirafisi also pointed to Grosskreutz's lawsuit against the city of Kenosha, in which he alleges police enabled the violence by allowing an armed militia to have the run of the streets during the demonstration.

"If Mr. Rittenhouse is convicted, your chance of getting 10 million bucks is better, right?" Chirafisi said.

At the defense table, Rittenhouse kept his eyes on Grosskreutz as he testified, taking detailed notes when the witness spoke about the moment he was shot.

Earlier that night, Grosskreutz was recording on his cellphone for a livestream when he heard gunshots a few blocks away. He heard people yelling for a medic, and began running toward the sound of the gunfire. □

Nebraska woman avoids death sentence for store clerk slaying

By GRANT SCHULTE Associated Press

WILBER, Neb. (AP) — A woman convicted of murder for her role in the death and dismemberment of a Nebraska hardware store clerk was sentenced to life

in prison on Monday, avoiding the prospect of being the first woman in state history to be sentenced to death.

Bailey Boswell, 27, received the punishment for her role in the 2017 death and dis-

memberment of Sidney Loofe, a Nebraska hardware store clerk. A three-judge panel deadlocked 2-1, with one judge saying he didn't believe the state met its burden of proof for a death sentence.

Prosecutors said Boswell and her boyfriend, Aubrey Trail, 55, had been planning to kill someone before Boswell met Loofe, 24, on the dating app Tinder and lured her to them. Loofe, a cashier at a Menards store in Lincoln, was strangled. Her body parts were later found in garbage bags, cut into 14 pieces and left in ditches along country roads in rural Clay County. Boswell was convicted in October 2020 of first-degree murder, conspiracy to commit murder and improper disposal of human remains. Trail was convict-

ed of the same charges in 2019 and sentenced in June to death. No execution date has been set, and based on Nebraska's history with the death penalty, it's unlikely his punishment will be carried out anytime soon.

Boswell was sentenced at the county courthouse in Wilber, about 40 miles (65 kilometers) southwest of Lincoln.

Although Trail has changed his story numerous times, he admitted at his sentencing that he strangled Loofe with an electric cord, as prosecutors had alleged. He said he tied up Loofe and killed her because she "freaked out" when he told her about his lifestyle with Loofe and other young women, which included defrauding antique dealers and rough group sex.

Trail acknowledged that he repeatedly lied to authorities and plotted to kill Loofe two to three hours before her slaying. But he asserted that Boswell wasn't in the room and didn't know he was going to do it.

Trail became the 12th man on death row in Nebraska, a state that rarely carries out executions. He missed much of his own trial after slashing his neck in the courtroom and yelling, "Bailey is innocent, I curse you all."

In Nebraska, all death sentences are automatically appealed. The state's most recent execution was of convicted murderer Carey Dean Moore in 2018, after Moore dropped all of his appeals and asked to be killed. Before that, Nebraska's last execution was in 1997. □



Emaciated children in Kabul hospital point to rising hunger

By LEE KEATH Associated Press

KABUL (AP) — In Kabul's main children's hospital, 2½-year-old Guldana is sitting up in her bed, but she's too exhausted to even open her eyes. Her tiny body is wrapped in a blanket, only her emaciated face showing.

She's one of a growing number of near-starving children who are brought every day to the Indira Gandhi Children's Hospital in the Afghan capital. Hunger is increasing dramatically in Afghanistan, fueled by an economic crisis that has only gotten worse since the Taliban seized power in the country nearly three months ago.

Guldana's father, Jinnat Gul, said he can hardly afford to feed her and his other five children. He used to work going house to house collecting scrap goods and selling them. But for the past three months, work has dried up and he has hardly made any money.



"Before, I had enough work, I could provide food. We could have meat one or two times a week," he said. Now his family mainly gets by on boiled potatoes. He said sometimes he only has bread soaked in green tea for his children, "just to give them something so they stop crying."

The U.N.'s World Food Pro-

gram said Monday that the number of people on the edge of famine has risen to 45 million in 43 countries. The number is up from 42 million earlier this year. Afghanistan is the source of most of that increase. The number of Afghans living in near-famine conditions has risen to 8.7 million, up by 3 million from earlier this

year, the WFP said. Overall, almost 24 million people in Afghanistan, or 60% of the population, suffer from acute hunger. An estimated 3.2 million children under age 5 are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition by the end of the year. "It's a crisis. It's a catastrophe," WFP Executive Director David Beasley said

during a weekend visit to Afghanistan. The WFP is rushing in supplies to feed people as the harsh winter sets in, but it says it needs some \$220 million a month in 2022 to fund its effort.

A severe drought this year in Afghanistan is one cause for increasing malnutrition. But also, more and more people simply don't have money to buy food.

The country's economy had been rapidly declining under the previous U.S.-backed government, which struggled to pay salaries to its employees.

Now the economy is in full-fledged meltdown after the Taliban seized power on Aug. 15. The Taliban government is mired in financial crisis, scrambling for cash. The U.S. and other Western countries have cut off direct financial assistance to the government that covered most of its budget; also, the Taliban government cannot access billions of dollars in Afghan national reserves held abroad. □

UN says over 3 million in Myanmar need "life-saving" aid

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N. humanitarian chief urged Myanmar's military leaders on Monday to provide unimpeded access to the more than 3 million people in need of life-saving humanitarian assistance since government forces seized power on Feb. 1 "because of growing conflict and insecurity, COVID-19 and a failing economy."

Martin Griffiths also urged donors to respond to the U.N. appeal, saying less than half of the \$385 million required has been raised since the military ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

Griffith's statement was issued as members of the U.N. Security Council held a closed-door meeting on Myanmar requested by the United Kingdom.

UK deputy ambassador James Kariuki told reporters before heading into the meeting that Britain is particularly concerned about the buildup of military ac-

tion in northwest Chin state, "and we are concerned that this rather mirrors the activity we saw four years ago ahead of the atrocities that were committed in Rakhine against the Rohingya" Muslim minority.

"So, we're very keen to make sure the council is focused and the military know that we're watching," he said.

The Feb. 1 military takeover followed November elections which Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party won overwhelmingly and the military rejects as fraudulent.

Since Suu Kyi's ouster, Myanmar has been wracked by unrest, with peaceful demonstrations against the ruling generals morphing first into a low-level insurgency in many urban areas after security forces used deadly force and then into more serious combat in rural areas, especially in border regions where ethnic minority militias have been engag-

ing in heavy clashes with government troops. On Sept. 7, the National Unity Government, the main underground group coordinating resistance to the military which was established by elected legislators who had been barred from taking their seats when the military seized power, called for a nationwide uprising. Its "People's Defense Forces" operate in many areas and have received training and weapons from some armed ethnic groups. Christine Schraner Burgenfeld told The Associated Press shortly before her 3 ½ year term as the U.N. special envoy for Myanmar ended on Oct. 31 that "civil war" has spread throughout the country.

She said the U.N. has heard that many soldiers are on the ground conducting "clearing operations" in Chin state, reminding the world that the military's "clearing operation" in Rakhine state in 2017 saw vil-

lages burned down, widespread rapes and more than 700,000 Rohingya Muslims flee to neighboring Bangladesh.

Griffiths also said "the situation in the northwest of the country has become extremely concerning, with an escalation in hostilities between the Myanmar Armed Forces and the Chinland Defense Force in Chin state, and with the People's Defense Forces in Magway and Sagaing regions."

"More than 37,000 people, including women and children, have been newly displaced, and more than 160 homes have been burned, including churches and the offices of a humanitarian organization," Griffiths said. "Attacks directed against civilians and civilian infrastructure, including humanitarian workers and facilities, are clearly prohibited under international humanitarian law and must stop immediately." □



Poland ups security as migrants mass on border with Belarus

By MONIKA SCISLOWSKA and VANESSA GERA undefined

WARSAW, Poland (AP) —

Poland has increased security at its border with Belarus, on the European Union's eastern border, after a large group of migrants in Belarus appeared to be congregating by the frontier, seeking to try to force their way into Poland, officials said Monday.

Video footage from Belarusian media showed people using uprooted trees to try to get through a fence. Poland's interior ministry said it had rebuffed an attempt at illegal entry, saying the situation is under control.

It posted a video showing migrants trying to force a razor fence barrier and throwing objects at Polish forces lining the fence.

There was no way to independently verify what was happening, as journalists have limited ability to operate in Belarus, while a state of emergency in Poland is keeping reporters, human rights workers and others out of the area.

The massing of people at the border appeared, however, to signal an escalation of a crisis that has been going on for months in which the autocratic regime of Belarus has encour-



aged migrants from the Middle East and elsewhere to illegally enter the European Union, at first through Lithuania and Latvia and now primarily through Poland.

Anton Bychkovsky, spokesman for Belarus' State Border Guard Committee, said in a statement sent to The Associated Press that the migrants at the border between Belarus and Poland are seeking to "exercise their right to apply for refugee status in the EU." Bychkovsky insisted they "are not a security threat" and "are not behaving aggressively."

Bychkovsky added that, according to the refugees, they gathered into such a large group in order to avoid "forcible ousting by the Polish side."

But the massing of a large number of people was viewed as a threat by Poland and other European countries, including Germany — the main destination for many of the migrants.

Steffen Seibert, German Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokesman, told reporters on Monday that "the Belarusian regime is acting as a human trafficker."

"It instrumentalizes refugees and migrants in a way that's politically and from a humanitarian point of view condemnable. And Europe will make a united stand against this continuous hybrid attack," Seibert said.

The European Union said it hoped that Poland, an EU member state, would finally accept help from Frontex, the border agency, a step Poland's ruling nationalists have so far refused.

In Brussels, A spokesman for the European Commission, Adalbert Jahnz called it "a continuation of the desperate attempt by the (Belarusian) President Alexander Lukashenko regime to use people as pawns to destabilize the European Union and of course the values that we stand for."

He suggested that the Commission would like Poland to request Frontex help, saying that the best way to manage a common border is with shared resources. He confirmed that Poland has not requested this help so far.

Frontex, which is headquartered in Warsaw, refused to comment on the situation, noting that it is not present at the border.

Bix Aliu, the U.S. charge d'affaires in Warsaw, tweeted in Polish that Lukashenko's regime was risking the migrants' lives and "using them to escalate the border crisis and provoke Poland." "Hostile actions by Belarus are exacerbating the situation on the border with the EU and NATO dangerously and must end immediately," he said.

Polish Defense Minister Mariusz Błaszczyk said on Twitter that more than 12,000 soldiers have been deployed to the border, up from the 10,000 soldiers that were there recently. He added that a volunteer Territorial Defense force was put on alert. □

Girls schools reopen in Afghan city of Herat, residents say

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Schools for girls from grades 7 to 12 have reopened in Afghanistan's third largest city, Herat, residents said Monday in what appeared to be a localized change in the Taliban's ban on classes for girls of that age.

Since seizing power nearly

three months ago, the Taliban have been under international pressure to allow all girls to go to school. There was no immediate confirmation from Taliban officials that girls were allowed back in Herat, a city in the west of the country, but parents there said their

girls had been attending classes the past two days. At least 26 schools for girls above grade 6 have reopened in Herat city, families said. So far, none are known to have reopened elsewhere in the province, also called Herat.

Mohammad Rafiq Sediqqi, a Herat resident, said his two daughters, in grades 8 and 9, were overjoyed to be back. He said he felt relief after weeks of worry.

"I suffered ten times more than my daughters when they couldn't go to school," he said.

The first time they were in power, from 1996 to 2001, the hard-line Taliban barred all women and girls from school and work. The growth in girls' school atten-

dance and women in the work force was considered one of the main achievements of the past 20 years under the U.S.-backed government.

Since the Taliban ousted that government on Aug. 15, the international community has refused to recognize the Taliban government until it meets a list of demands, including respect for women's rights and schooling for girls. The newly ruling Taliban have allowed boys of all grades to return to school, but only allowed girls in primary school and women at private universities to continue. Teenage girls, aged 12 to 17, were not allowed back.

The new Taliban govern-

ment has said that some form of education for girls and women will be permitted, but it has not given a timeframe or clarified what education facilities would be allowed.

The Taliban governor's office and Education Department in Herat did not respond to repeated requests from The Associated Press for comment on the situation in the city.

But residents were happy just to see their girls back in class. Mohammad Asif said he had been upset for weeks that his 8th grade sister hadn't been able to attend.

"I wish all girls can study and be educated to serve this nation alongside the men," he said. □



Russians go back to work but virus cases, deaths stay high

By DARIA LITVINOVA Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russians went back to work on Monday after a mandated, nine-day break with authorities expressing uncertainty whether the measure helped tame a record-breaking surge of coronavirus infections and deaths. Daily tallies of new cases and COVID-19 deaths remained high throughout the non-working period. Officials in the Kremlin said that it was too early to tell whether the measure had the desired effect.

"Too early to draw a conclusion. It will be clear in about a week," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

Russia's coronavirus task force reported 39,400 new infections and 1,190 deaths on Monday — slightly lower than the record 41,335 new cases registered on Saturday and the record 1,195 deaths reported on Thursday. Russia has the worst death toll in Europe by far, and is one of the top five hardest-hit nations in the world.

The task force has been reporting around 40,000 new cases and over 1,100 new deaths each day since late October.

Last month, Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered many Russians to stay off



work between Oct. 30 and Nov. 7. He authorized regional governments to extend the number of non-working days if necessary, but only five Russian regions have done so.

Others have restricted attendance to public places, such as restaurants, theaters and cinemas, to those who either have been fully vaccinated, have recov-

ered from COVID-19 within the last six months or tested negative in the previous 72 hours.

Russia's autumn surge in infections and deaths comes amid low vaccination rates, lax public attitudes toward taking precautions and the government's reluctance to toughen restrictions.

Less than 40% of Russia's nearly 146 million people

According to Gogov.ru, a independent website that tracks vaccinations in Russia, the immunization rate went up in mid-October and almost reached peak levels recorded between June and August when dozens of Russian regions mandated vaccinations for certain groups of people. The rate had dropped again as of Thursday.

In all, Russia's coronavirus task force has reported more than 8.8 million confirmed cases and over 248,000 deaths.

However, reports by Russia's statistical service Rosstat that tally coronavirus-linked deaths retroactively reveal much higher mortality numbers: 462,000 people with COVID-19 died between April 2020 and September this year.

Russian officials have said the task force only includes deaths for which COVID-19 was the main cause and uses data from medical facilities. Rosstat uses wider criteria for counting virus-related deaths and takes its numbers from civil registry offices where registering a death is finalized. □

Austria to step up checks as new COVID rules take effect

BERLIN (AP) — Austrian authorities said Monday they are stepping up police checks to enforce new rules under which unvaccinated people who haven't had COVID-19 are barred from restaurants, hotels, hairdressing salons and large public events.

The rules, which were announced on Friday night, took effect on Monday across the country of 8.9 million people. They are a response to a rapidly rising infection rate, which on Monday stood at 635 new cases per 100,000 residents over the past seven days — over three times the level in neighboring Germany.

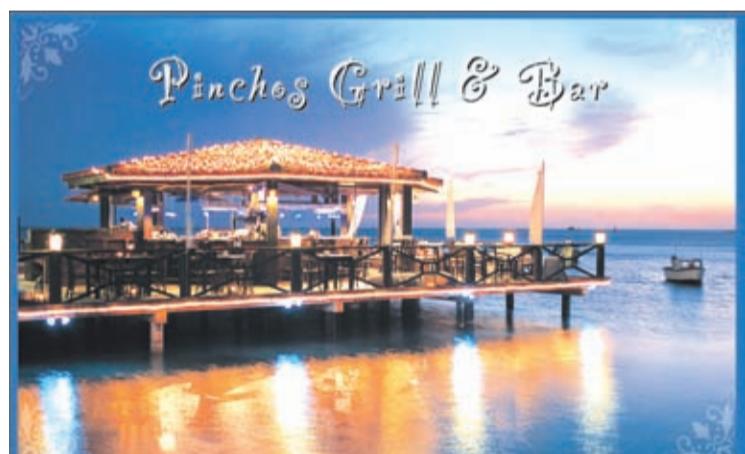
The government foresees a four-week transition period to encourage the unvaccinated to get shots. During that time, anyone who has received one vaccine dose and has a negative PCR test will be allowed to attend events and enter the listed loca-

tions and events. About 65% of Austria's population is fully vaccinated.

Interior Minister Karl Nehammer said that 800 police officers tasked with checking compliance with the COVID-19 rules will be added to some 4,000 officers who are already on regular patrols.

"For those who keep to all the measures, it's more than unfair if there are people who think they can simply circumvent or even fool health authorities, the health ministry and experts' guidelines," Nehammer said. A customer who flouts the rules can face a fine of up to 500 euros (\$578), while a business can be fined up to 30,000 euros (\$34,700) if customers aren't certified as vaccinated or having recovered from COVID-19.

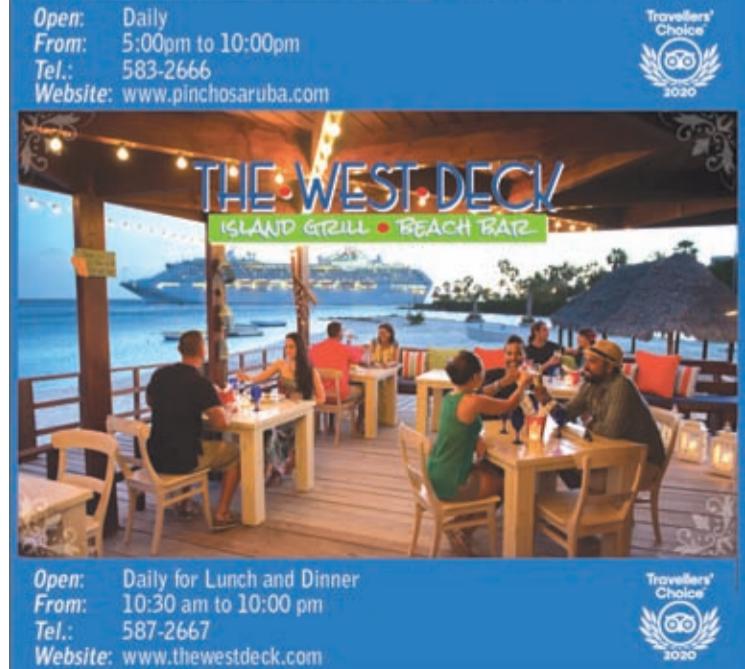
The government has said that, if the situation continues to worsen, further restrictions for unvaccinated people could follow. □



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ORANJESTAD — In a festive gathering at La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino, the Aruba Timeshare Association launched a new booklet titled "The Vacation Ownership and Timeshare Industry on Aruba," in the presence of Ursell Arends, Vice Prime Minister and Minister for Integrity, Nature, Transport and Elderly Care; Dangui Oduber, Minister of Tourism & Health; Ronella Croes, CEO of Aruba Tourism Authority; Tisa LaSorte, President & CEO of AHATA, in addition to ATSA Members, University of Aruba staffers, media and invited guests.

Luigi Heredia, President of Aruba Timeshare Associa-

tion, enjoyed the distinct honor of presenting the booklet to the gathering. Timeshare, he said, which is also referred to as Vacation Ownership, has been one of the fastest growing segments of the travel industry, and has grown significantly over the past few decades. It is an industry that is constantly evolving, he stated.

Looking at the impact of the global corona virus pandemic, Heredia was proud to say that the ATSA properties on Aruba have once again shown their resilience and continued to be the backbone of the island's economy.

ATSA is grateful, he reiterated, to its Vacation Own-

Booklet "The Vacation Ownership and Timeshare Industry on Aruba," launched

ers as they were the last ones to leave the Island and the first ones to return. ATSA also had two properties that never closed and remained opened with guests during the lockdown. Overall, Aruba is looking at a faster recovery & higher occupancy levels, than all other hospitality sectors.

According to the President and CEO of ARDA, American Resort Development Association, in the Fall of 2021, "The Timeshare story always has revolved around themes like taking vacations, and spending a relaxing time with family members in preservation of physical and mental health. While others have tried versions of this story, the timeshare industry was there first, and it continues to improve on the narrative."

Aruba, continued Heredia, has something special and unique, the wonderful people of the island, who make the vacation experience here more memorable, and that is why mem-

bers count days, until their

return to their Home away from Home. Aruba is also the envy of Caribbean competitors, as owners have shown a long-term commitment to the island.

The industry has demonstrated focus, adaptability, and the willingness to partner to benefit guests' experiences and thus is was successful in navigating trying times, Heredia concluded. In launching "The Vacation Ownership and Timeshare Industry on Aruba," ATSA rebranded itself as a Vacation Ownership organization in order to capture opportunities that come up from business alliances and product extensions. The booklet provides the industry with a complete overview, and serves as an educational tool to familiarize the community and those who want to learn more about Vacation Ownership and Timeshare, here.

Given the importance of Vacation Ownership and its contribution to the overall hospitality and tourism industry on the island, it is imperative to understand both the properties and the owners.

The booklet reviews the Concept of Timeshare, with the unique opportunities to exchange; it explains What is Timeshare, and outlines Timeshare in The World, and Timeshare in the Caribbean Region, one of the most popular international destinations for that.

The booklet carries the complete overview of the industry, characteristics and key performance indicators, in addition to the History of Timeshare in Aruba, where we see 44 years ago in 1977, the first property open, the Aruba Beach Club, and the most recent the Marriott Aruba Surf Club, in 2004.

The booklet touches on the contribution to the Aruban Community and the economic impact, where the latest study shows that the Timeshare industry represents approximately 20% of the island's GDP, and therefore critical to the is-

land's economy.

The booklet includes Information on Tourist Levy, referred to as Timeshare Tax and the Environmental Levy, that contributed to the Product Enhancement Fund on the island. The industry, Heredia states, does contribute its fair share.

More information about timeshare vs. hotel and Airbnb, and the advantages of timeshares over traditional hotels, are reviewed in the booklet, as owners have a vested interest in being back in Aruba where hotel or Airbnb customers may not have the same emotional ties with the island, and therefore may also opt to travel elsewhere.

The booklet also includes the Timeshare Study Survey Results by the University of Aruba, which was presented by Jo-Anne Croes, a UA lecturer, including Covid-19 and its impact on Aruba, results from a Timeshare Focus Group and the Timeshare Profile, by the Aruba Tourism Authority, plus the 2020 Impact on Aruba.

Last but not least the booklet profiles the association's 15 member resorts, who are all committed to continue making Aruba one of the top popular destinations in the Caribbean. A big thank you to the University of Aruba for a job well done and to the ATSA members for pitching in for the printing.□

Association members are: Amsterdam Manor; Aruba Beach Club Resort; Caribbean Palm Village Resort; Casa Del Mar Beach Resort; Costa Linda Beach Resort; Divi Dutch Village Beach Resort; Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort; Divi Village Golf and Beach Resort; Eagle Aruba Resort & Casino; La Cabana Beach Resort and Casino; La Quinta Beach Resort; Marriott Aruba Ocean Club; Marriot Aruba Surf Club; Paradise Beach Villas; and Playa Linda Beach Resort.

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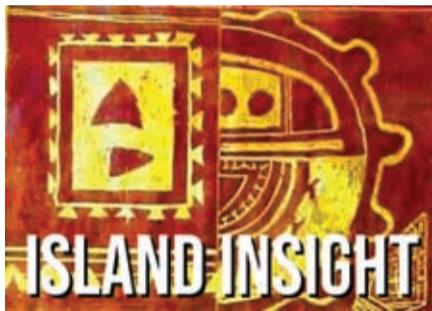
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Article by Etnia Nativa

WhatsApp us 592 2702 and book your Aruban experience!

Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels



Legislation against global warming

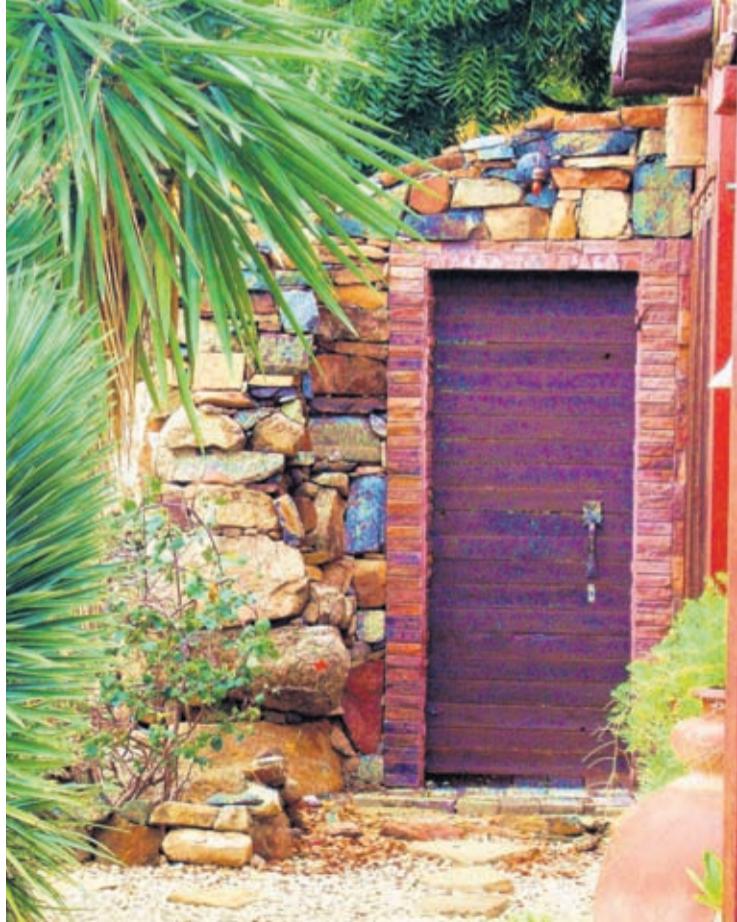
NOORD - Citizens of Aruba are at that point where they must determine character and make an unconditional choice for the future by demanding responsible governance. Considering the demographics and geophysical limitations of its small territory, smart choices long term benefits. Operating objectives of Etnia Nativa's initiative is to share our collective native folkloric experience and field observations. A spiritual respect for Mother Nature is our promotion. Encourage awareness of true elemental values as well as benefits in proven Scientific and Technological solutions for an eco-conscious society.

Aruba's fragile nature is under various threat. The lack of regulations and the non-enforcement of those in force has proven to generate disastrous results, accidents made to happen.

Our concern is the destruction of our topsoil and complete depletion of it's essential nutrient dispensing network which spread humidity evenly during heavy rains, grateful to be

spared outside of the so-called hurricane belt, however, razing piece of land is very tragic for Aruba is like an natural disasters. This devastation reached its tipping point. A sign of over-crowding, destruction of nature, and stress will also increase the cost of healthcare, business, security and souring cost of energy with rising tem-

peratures. Our island waste impasse deserves a creative solution and pragmatic intervention. In our experiment with recycling, we built all of our facilities. A project that incorporated materials collected in all phases of its construction process. The same was applied in the construction of artifacts, furniture and works of art



Episode CXXIX- 129



that are part of the decoration and lectures, such as lamps, masks, shells and bones, feathers and seeds, etc. less garbage in to landfills

We promote the planting of trees, local trees in particular, in order to fight back desertification and rising areal temperature. We actively support such actively as volunteers. We emphasized on issues such as market saturation, loss of charm. Quality over quantity mind-set. Reintegration of the youth in the tourist service industry. Repatriation of the less demanding and under educated foreign workerforces towards recovery and beyond. Reforming fiscal system and environmental custodian, paving way towards a holistic sustainable economy. Global Warming must be taken very serious and personal, hence every person could offer it's grain of sand of contribution. Lets become a suscesful study case an example in natural recovery, mitigate the cost of fossil energy and combat the intensifying heat. □

Did you say that you love Aruba its origins and cultural heritage? Than this private encounter with our columnist anthropologist is just as you. Sessions created in a gorgeous setting for visitor with special interests. Appointment is required. etnianativa03@gmail.com or WhatsApp us 297 592 2702 for a private reservation.

Papillon: the butterfly effect of magnificent food



PALM BEACH — Do you remember the film "Papillon" starring Steve McQueen? Papillon restaurant is the island's example where 'life imitates art.' The décor, especially the restrooms, was inspired by the movie. For more than a decade this restaurant has built a reputation with the fusion of classic French cuisine, Dutch and Caribbean flavors. Welcome in the world of wonders where ambiance, taste and service come together and you feel you are being welcomed in the home of the owner and her team.

"We find it really important that our guests have fun; can relax while listening to live music while their taste buds are being tickled by France, The Netherlands and the Caribbean. We offer a unique fusion of dishes and a night not to forget," says owner Tina. She points out that all Covid-protocol is in place here, they are very keen on hygiene and offer outside dining on a cozy, elegant terrace with social distancing in place and right on the high-rise strip.

Fresh oysters, caviar and wild boar

You are on vacation, life is to enjoy! If you want something special, a different flavor than the usual then Papillon is the place to go. Foodies are in heaven here with classic French dishes such as Foie Gras, Frog Legs, fresh Oysters coming in on a weekly basis from Holland, Escargots, Dover Sole à la Meunière flown in from Europe and

fileted at the table, Duck Breast seared on the skin, roasted and braised Lamb in Balashi beer and slow braised Wild Boar Shank. Do not leave without trying the exclusive recommendation: Caviar! All of this combined with an extensive wine list from around the world makes Papillon a must-do on your Aruban vacation.

Chef's Sunday

Tina: "Every Sunday Papillon offers you an exquisite meal option: a 4-course Chef's Menu with wine pairing for \$100 per person. With regards to the man in the kitchen we have the best of the best: chef Martijn Liebregts from The Netherlands. He has earned his spurs among others in Amber; one of the best French fine dining restaurant's Hong Kong has to offer, with 2 Michelin- stars and ranked as the 24th best restaurant in the world. Moving back to Amsterdam he joined the team of former Bib Gourmand restaurant "Wilde Zwijnen", which was awarded the title "The New Dutch Cuisine" by the New York Times. So you see, this is the time to come over and reserve your table."

Let the music play!

We will give you another reason to visit: twice a week you can enjoy the tunes of live sax player Jairo or the famous Marisela who enchants you with her acoustic performance accompanied by percussion only. Wednesdays chill away on the French lounge tunes of DJ Ibarra and Tuesdays Jose Herrera enchants you with his keyboard talent. The musicians interact with the guests, requests can be send in, the live tunes definitely add to the experience.

Vegetarian vibes present

Impressive vegetarian/vegan dishes are set up especially for the guests by the chef and Meredith from Vegan Aruba. "We offer vegan choices that are really good and tasty. Our daily soup is always vegan too." What are you waiting for, make sure to pay a visit to this elegant yet laid-



back restaurant while on Aruba. You are most welcome!

Papillon Restaurant is located at The Village across the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino and within walking distance of all other major hotels.

Papillon
RESTAURANT

Make your reservation today at:
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 Open Daily: 5pm – 10.00pm – Early Bird from 5pm – 7pm
 For all menus and specials visit the website: www.papillonaruba.com. □

Domestic Credit Surged Summary of the Monthly Bulletin of September 2021

Monetary developments

Compared to August 2021, money supply increased by Afl. 17.8 million to Afl. 5,154.7 million in September 2021, resulting from a growth in the net domestic assets (+Afl. 34.6 million) and a decrease in the net foreign assets (-Afl. 16.9 million).

The expansion in the domestic component of money supply was caused by a surge in the domestic credit (+Afl. 54.2 million) and a decrease in the non-credit related balance sheet items (-Afl. 19.6 million). The rise in domestic credit resulted from increases in both the net claims of the banking sector on the public sector (+Afl. 30.4 million) and the claims of the banking sector on the private sector (+Afl. 23.8 million). The growth in the net

claims of the banking sector on the public sector was the result of a dip in government deposits (-Afl. 33.3 million). The upswing in the claims of the banking sector on the private sector was caused by upturns in loans to enterprises (+Afl. 19.6 million) and housing mortgages (+Afl. 6.8 million), while consumer credit declined (-Afl. 2.6 million).

In September 2021, net foreign assets of the banking sector decreased, due to net sales of foreign exchange of Afl. 405.4 million to the public, mainly associated with primary income and payments for goods imports. These were largely offset by net purchases of foreign exchange of Afl. 388.5 million from the public, mostly related to other investment and foreign exchange revenue from tourism exports.

Inflation

The consumer price index (CPI) for September 2021 noted a 2.2 percent rise year-over-year (YOY) compared to a 1.4 percent increase (YOY) for August 2021. The main contributors to this increase were the "Transport" and "Household Operation" components. The 12-month average inflation rate was -0.7 percent in September 2021, compared to -1.1 percent in August 2021.

Government

Total government revenue amounted to Afl. 88.8 million in September 2021, Afl. 27.7 million more than the same month of the previous year. The growth in government revenue resulted from increases in both tax revenue (+Afl. 19.4 million) and nontax revenue

(+Afl. 8.2 million).

The expansion in tax revenue was mainly driven by increases in income from turnover tax (B.B.O./B.A.V.P) (+Afl. 5.7 million), import duties (+Afl. 3.8 million), and excises on beer (+Afl. 2.1 million).

Tourism

The number of stay-over visitors amounted to 60,293 in September 2021, which is 13,335 less visitors (-18.1 percent) than in September 2019. The North American market, the Latin American market, and the European market declined by 6,767 visitors (-12.3 percent), 3,449 visitors (-40.1 percent), and 2,954 visitors (-36.0 percent), respectively.

Musk: I'll sell 10% of Tesla stock based on Twitter poll

By MATT OTT AP Business Writer

SILVER SPRING, Md. (AP) —

Tesla shares were down 3% in midday trading Monday after CEO Elon Musk said he would sell 10% of his holdings in the electric car maker — more than \$20 billion worth by most calculations — based on the results of a poll he conducted on Twitter over the weekend. According to analyst Daniel Ives of Wedbush Securities, Musk owns about 23% of Tesla's stock and has about \$10 billion in taxes coming due to stock options that vest next summer. Much of Musk's wealth is held in shares of Tesla, which does not pay him a cash salary. "I only have stock, thus the only way for me to pay taxes personally is to sell stock," Musk tweeted.

Many on Wall Street assumed Musk would be selling closer to 5% of his stake, Ives said, but even doubling that number doesn't cause him or his firm great concern. Ives said better to "rip the Band-Aid off now" and avoid speculation.

"Tesla remains in pole position to drive this EV adoption curve to the next level both domestically and globally with Musk &



Co. leading the way," Ives wrote in a note to clients. Tesla has been on a roll. As of Friday, the shares had gained more than 40% since last month when the company announced a record profit for the third quarter. Last week, Tesla

shares hit an all-time closing high of \$1,229.91 per share. It's the most valuable car maker in the world with a market capitalization of more than \$1 trillion. Shares fell slightly more than 3% from their open of \$1,149.79 to \$1,185 in morning trad-

ing after being down more than 6% right after the bell. They're still up nearly 60% for the year. The sometimes abrasive and unpredictable Musk, whose net worth is around \$300 billion, said he proposed selling the stock as

some Democrats have been pushing for billionaires to pay taxes when the price of the stocks they hold goes up, even if they don't sell any shares. However, the wording on unrealized gains, also called a "billionaires tax," was removed from President Joe Biden's budget, which is still being negotiated.

"Much is made lately of unrealized gains being a means of tax avoidance, so I propose selling 10% of my Tesla stock," he tweeted Saturday afternoon. "Do you support this?"

Musk said he would abide by the results of the poll, which ended with 58% of more than 3.5 million votes calling for him to sell the stock. He did not say when he would sell the stock.

Musk is known for roiling markets with his sometimes flippant and ill-advised tweets. Last Tuesday, Tesla shares tumbled more than 3% after Musk tweeted that a deal to sell 100,000 Teslas to Hertz had not yet been signed. Hertz said the cars were already being delivered. Ives called Musk's recent Twitter poll "another bizarre soap opera that can only happen to one company and one CEO in the world, Musk." □

Japan's SoftBank sinks into losses over China investments

By YURI KAGEYAMA AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — SoftBank Group Corp. sank into red ink for the July-September period, dragged down by losses on its investments in China, the Japanese technology conglomerate said Monday.

SoftBank reported a 397.9 billion yen (\$3.5 billion) loss for the fiscal second quarter, compared to a 627 billion yen profit recorded the same period the previous year.

Quarterly sales grew 11% to 1.5 trillion yen (\$13 billion). Tokyo-based SoftBank said its investment portfolio called Vision Fund suffered losses, including the value of its stake in South Korean online retailer Coupang. But it said it booked gains

on its shares in DoorDash, an online food-ordering service based in San Francisco.

SoftBank said the recent crackdown in China on the technology sector weighed on Chinese share prices. SoftBank's Vision Fund was hit by a 1 trillion yen (\$9 billion) loss in the July-September quarter, according to its chief executive, Masayoshi Son.

Son, who founded the company, acknowledged the latest losses were a big contrast to the booming results it reported for the previous fiscal year.

"We have headed straight into a blizzard in the middle of the winter," Son told reporters, adding he won't make excuses. He said one big factor was

a sharp drop in the share price of Chinese e-commerce company Alibaba, in which SoftBank is a shareholder.

But he stressed SoftBank's main business was shifting to the Vision Fund and becoming less dependent on Alibaba's performance. However, Vision Fund's Chinese investments also suffered.

Son said Vision Fund's investments overall were gaining value. Its portfolio has been constantly changing. It once owned U.S. mobile company Sprint, but Sprint has merged with T-Mobile, in which SoftBank remains an investor.

SoftBank has a Japanese mobile carrier under its wing that was the first to offer the iPhone in the Japa-

nese market.

It also has invested in U.S. office-sharing venture WeWork, a move that critics said was a mistake, but Son said its performance was recovering.

Investments in U.S. chip company Arm and ride-hailing service Uber are examples that are faring rela-

tively well.

"I feel that Vision Fund is producing results," said Son. He said he still saw promise, showing video of a tiny green seedling sprouting in the snow.

"While some of the eggs our goose has laid just died, the other golden eggs are shining in splendor," he said. □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 41 Photo

1 José's finish house 42 "I Am"

5 Travel stop Woman"

10 "Skyfall" singer Helen

12 Plain silly 43 Fling

13 Electricity producers

15 Period of history

16 Negating word

17 Obtain

18 Came back, as a lizard's tail

20 Ripped

21 Oscar winner Wither-spoon

22 Cold War side

23 Razor sharpener

25 Price tag info

28 Pesky swarm

31 Fine study

32 Bring to mind

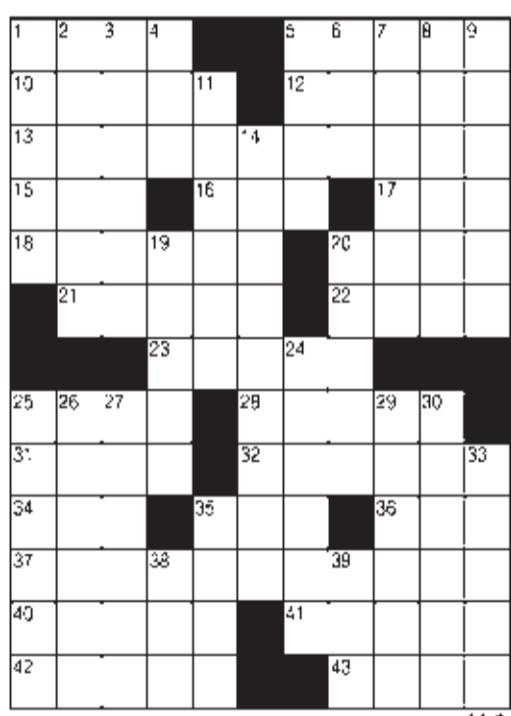
34 Diner dessert

35 Sheep sound

36 Zodiac cat

37 One with political influence

40 Kagan of the Supreme Court



AXYDLBAAXR
is LONG FELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

11-9 CRYPTOQUOTE

W A L Q L I U L W F T Q V H Y V V W M F D

M Q W A M Q : E L L B Q S L L W . R L

C Q L T C H V D Z E L L B R C Q J .

— L I R L U W A C R R V U Z
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: FORGET NOT THAT THE EARTH DELIGHTS TO FEEL YOUR BARE FEET AND THE WINDS LONG TO PLAY WITH YOUR HAIR. — KHALIL GIBRAN

Air-scrubbing machines gain momentum, but long way to go



CATHY BUSSEWITZ AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — On a field ringed by rolling green hills in Iceland, fans attached to metal structures that look like an industrialized Lego project are spinning.

Their mission is to scrub the atmosphere by sucking carbon dioxide from the air and storing it safely underground. "We have already failed on climate to the extent to which direct air capture is one of the many things we must do," Friedmann said.

"We have already emitted so many greenhouse gases at such an incredible volume and rate that CO2 removal at enormous scales is required, as well as reduction of emissions."

As dire warnings have accelerated, technology to vacuum carbon dioxide from the air has advanced. Currently, a handful of companies operate such plants on a commercial scale, including Climeworks, which built the Orca plant in Iceland, and Carbon Engineering, which built a different type of direct air capture plant in British Columbia. And now that the technology has been proven, both companies have ambitions for major expansion.

"Effectively, in 30 years' time, we need a worldwide enterprise that is twice as big as the oil and gas industry, and that works in reverse," said Julio Friedmann, senior research scholar at the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University.

Leading scientific agencies including the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change say that even if the world manages to stop producing harmful emissions, that still won't be enough to avert a climate catastrophe. They say we need to suck massive amounts of carbon dioxide out of the

air and put it back underground — yielding what some call "negative emissions."

"We have already failed on climate to the extent to which direct air capture is one of the many things we must do," Friedmann said. "We have already emitted so many greenhouse gases at such an incredible volume and rate that CO2 removal at enormous scales is required, as well as reduction of emissions."

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DIRECT AIR CAPTURE AT WORK

At Climeworks' Orca plant near Reykjavik, fans suck air into big, black collection boxes where the carbon dioxide accumulates on a filter. Then it's heated with geothermal energy and is combined with water and pumped deep underground into basalt rock formations. Within a few years, Climeworks says, the carbon dioxide turns into stone.

It takes energy to build and run Climeworks' plants. Throughout the life cycle of the Orca plant, including construction, 10 tons of car-

bon dioxide are emitted for every 100 tons of carbon dioxide removed from the air. Carbon Engineering's plants can run on renewable energy or natural gas, and when natural gas is used, the carbon dioxide generated during combustion is captured.

Carbon dioxide can also be injected into geological reservoirs such as depleted oil and gas fields. Carbon Engineering is taking that approach in partnership with Occidental Petroleum to build what's expected to be the world's largest direct air capture facility in the Southwest's Permian Basin — the most productive U.S. oil field.

Direct air capture plants globally are removing about 9,000 tons of carbon dioxide from the air annually, according to the International Energy Agency.

Climeworks built its first direct air capture plant in 2017 in Hinwil, Switzerland, which captured 900 metric tons of carbon dioxide annually that was sold to companies for use in fizzy beverages and fertilizer. The company built another plant, called Arctic Fox, in Iceland that same year; it captured up to 50 metric tons of carbon dioxide annually that was injected underground.

"Today we are on a level that we can say it's on an industrial scale, but it's not on a level where we need to be to make a difference in stopping climate change," said Daniel Egger, chief commercial officer at Climeworks.

BIG PLANS, CHALLENGES
Their plans call for scaling up to remove several million metric tons of carbon dioxide annually by 2030. And Eggers said that would mean increasing capacity by a factor of 10 almost every three years.

It's a lofty, and expensive, goal. As with any new technology, costs can decrease over time. Within the next decade, experts say, the cost of direct air capture could fall to about \$200 per ton or lower. □

Classifieds

HTTA

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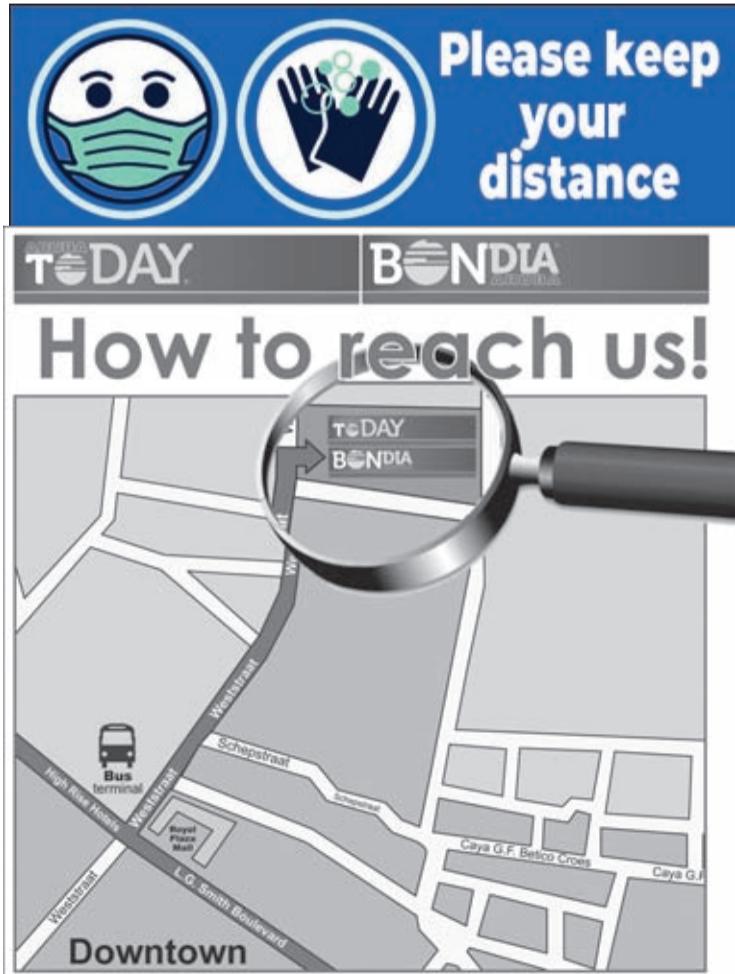
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Grandparents await hugs, spouses reunite as US borders open

By ELLIOT SPAGAT and JOHN LEICESTER
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The U.S. fully reopened its borders with Mexico and Canada on Monday and lifted restrictions on travel that covered most of Europe, setting the stage for emotional reunions nearly two years in the making and providing a boost for the travel industry decimated by the pandemic.

The restrictions, among the most severe in U.S. history, kept families apart, including spouses who have not been able to hug in months, grandparents whose grandchildren doubled in age since they last saw them, and uncles and aunts who have not met nieces and nephews who are now toddlers.

Lines moved quickly Monday morning at San Diego's border with Mexico, the busiest crossing in the United States, despite the added checks for vaccinations required to enter the country.

The new rules also allow air travel from a series of countries from which it has been restricted since the early days of the pandemic — as long as the traveler has proof of vaccination and a negative COVID-19 test.

American citizens and per-



manent residents were always allowed to enter the U.S., but the travel bans grounded tourists, thwarted business travelers and often separated families.

Gaye Camara was already imagining her reunion with her husband, who she has not seen since before COVID-19 brought the fly-here-there-and-everywhere world to a halt.

"I'm going to jump into his arms, kiss him, touch him," said Camara, 40, as she wheeled her luggage through Paris' Charles de Gaulle airport, which could almost be mistaken for its

pre-pandemic self, busy with humming crowds, albeit in face masks.

When Camara last saw him in January 2020, they had no way of knowing that they'd have to wait 21 months before holding each other again. She lives in France's Alsace region, where she works as a secretary. He is based in New York.

"It was very hard at the beginning. I cried nearly every night," she said.

Video calls, text messages, phone conversations kept them connected — but couldn't fill the void of sep-

aration.

"I cannot wait," she said. "Being with him, his presence, his face, his smile."

Airlines are preparing for a surge in activity — especially from Europe — after the pandemic and resulting restrictions caused international travel to plunge.

The 28 European countries that were barred under the U.S. policy that just ended made up 37% of overseas visitors in 2019, the U.S. Travel Association says. As the reopening takes effect, carriers are increasing flights between the United Kingdom and the U.S. by

21% this month over last month, according to data from travel and analytics firm Cirium.

In a sign of the huge importance of trans-Atlantic travel for airlines, British Airways and Virgin Atlantic celebrated the reopening by synchronizing the departures of their early-morning flights to New York on parallel runways at London's Heathrow Airport. BA CEO Sean Doyle was aboard his company's plane.

"Together, even as competitors, we have fought for the safe return of trans-Atlantic travel — and now we celebrate that achievement as a team. Some things are more important than one-upmanship, and this is one of those things," Doyle wrote in a message to customers, noting that the flight carried the number that used to belong to the supersonic Concorde. For Martine Kerhervé, being separated from loved ones in the United States was filled with worries that they might not survive the pandemic that has killed more than 5 million people worldwide.

"We told ourselves that we could die without seeing each other," said Kerhervé, who was heading for Fort Lauderdale, Florida, from Paris. □

Vatican Library opens to public with old-new art space

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The Vatican's Apostolic Library, which is home to ancient manuscripts, rare books and reading rooms for scholars is opening its doors to the general public with a

small new exhibition space aimed at pairing its artistic treasures with contemporary art.

The inaugural exhibit "Tutti" (All) takes its inspiration from Pope Francis' 2020 en-

cyclical "Brothers All" which combines his appeals for environmental sustainability, greater human fraternity and a more just socio-economic order in the post-COVID world.

Rome artist Pietro Ruffo, for whom maps and migration are regular themes, was invited to design a site-specific exhibit in one of the Library's halls, which he transformed into a tropical forest. In another room, Ruffo designed a contemporary version of one of the Library's ancient maps of the Nile with the two running side-by-side in a glass case.

Inaugurating the new space last week, Francis said the world was in need

of new maps after COVID-19.

"In this epochal change that the pandemic has accelerated, humanity needs new maps to discover the sense of fraternity, of friendship and the common good," he said. "We need a new beauty, that isn't the usual reflection of power of some but a courageous mosaic of everyone's diversity."

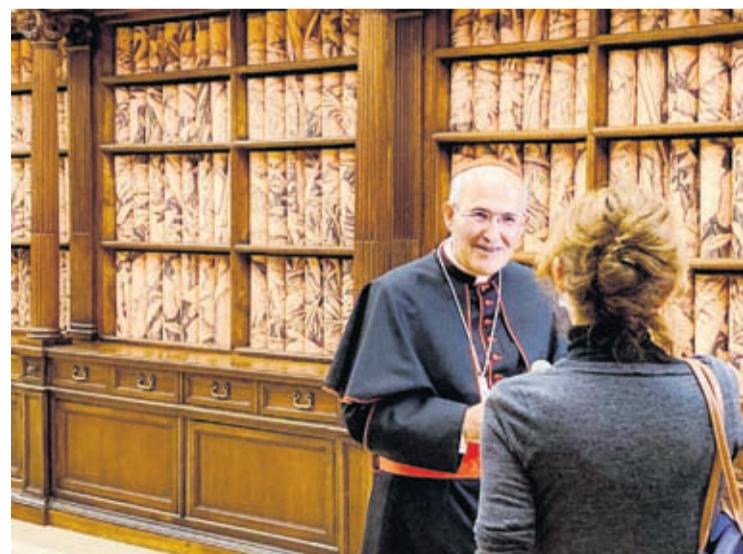
The initiative, funded by the estate of U.S. philanthropist Kirk Kerkorian, follows Francis' appeal early on in his pontificate for the Library to open itself up more to the outside world. Francis has followed that line by also opening the papal summer residence in Castel

Gandolfo to the public as a museum.

The exhibit, which runs through Feb. 22, is open Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons and provides visitors with a unique way to get into Vatican City that would otherwise be off-limits.

Visitors must request admission in advance online, and the 15 euro admission fee includes the catalogue.

The Apostolic Library is separate from the Vatican Secret Archives, recently renamed the Vatican Apostolic Archives, which is home to all the documentation from the Holy See and its far-flung embassies. Both are open to scholars upon request. □



Giants need big run to overcome another bad start to season

By TOM CANAVAN
EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)

— It might be easy to look at the New York Giants' 3-6 record and take the high road.

New York has played its best football over the last three weeks and won twice. That includes an impressive win over Carolina, a late loss to the Chiefs and a surprising 23-16 win Sunday over the Las Vegas Raiders, the co-leaders in the AFC West.

There is reason for optimism. The defense is coming around. The cavalry is expected to bring help for the offense with star running back Saquon Barkley (ankle), receiver Sterling Shepard (quad) and tackle Andrew Thomas (ankle) close to returning from injuries. Receivers Kenny Golladay (knee) and Kadarius Toney (ankle) will have more time to rest during the bye week after returning from injury.

The other uplifting news is the NFC, a conference of the haves and have-nots. Arizona, Green Bay, Tampa

Bay, Dallas, the Los Angeles Rams and New Orleans all have winning records. Atlanta is at .500 and the rest of the conference is sub-.500.

The Giants are only 1 1/2 games behind Atlanta in the race for the seventh wild-card spot.

There's hope they can return to the postseason for the first time since 2016 if they can put together a run like they did last year. As a rookie head coach, Joe Judge guided them to a 5-3 finish; they were edged by Washington for the NFC East title.

Now, stop smiling. It's time for the reality check.

The Giants lead you on and then leave you flat. Look at the last four seasons, all of 16 games, unlike the current 17 of 2021. After nine games in each of those seasons, going backward from 2020, the records have been 2-7, 2-7, 2-7 and 1-8. When they made the playoffs in 2016 under Ben McAdoo, they were 6-3 en route to an 11-5 record.

Just to get to 11-6, the Giants would have to win out. For the record, the last four seasons they have finished 6-10, 4-12, 5-11, 3-13.

The rest of the schedule includes games with Tampa Bay (6-2), the Chargers (5-3) — tied with Las Vegas atop the AFC West — and Dallas (6-2). Also on the schedule are tail-enders Philadelphia (twice), Miami, Chicago, and Washington. Five of the eight are on the road.

WHAT'S WORKING

The defense. It took six-plus games, but coordinator Pat Graham finally has his unit playing like a year ago when it kept New York in most games. Over the last three games, the defense has allowed a total of 39 points after giving up 177 in the first six, an average of almost 30 points.

The Giants are still giving up a large amount of yards, but they have been good in the red zone.

"I think we're just making plays when it's time for us to make plays," cornerback James Bradberry said.



WHAT NEEDS HELP

Red-zone offense. The Giants went out of their way in the offseason to help it. They signed the playmaking Golladay to a \$72 million contract. They added veteran tight end Kyle Rudolph and drafted elusive wide receiver Toney in the first round. That was a year after taking Thomas to anchor the left side with the fourth pick overall.

The offense currently is ranked last in the red zone, converting at 44%. That's a year after it finished next to last to the Jets at 44.34%.

Injuries to Barkley, Golladay, Shepard, Toney, tight

end Evan Engram and three starters on the O-line have not helped.

INJURIES

Way too many. Center Nick Gates (broken leg), left guard Shane Lemieux (knee) and LT Thomas (ankle) are on IR heading into the bye, along with ILB and leading tackler Blake Martinez (ACL) and safety Jabrill Peppers (ACL). Barkley, who was returning from an ACL injury in 2020, has missed the last four games with a sprained ankle. Shepard has missed three games and fellow WR Darius Slayton two. Top returner C.J. Board broke his arm. □

European leagues see surprise leaders, slumping super clubs

By GRAHAM DUNBAR AP Sports Writer

GENEVA (AP) — Five of the 12 Super League founder clubs lie outside the Champions League qualifying places as domestic soccer pauses for the international break with surprise title challengers across Europe.

Barcelona and Juventus — who are helping lead a legal challenge by Super League members against UEFA — would not even qualify for European competition from their current standings of ninth and eighth, respectively, as they adjust to life without Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo. Manchester United, even with Ronaldo, and Arsenal are on track for the Europa League next season. Tottenham is like Barcelona — in ninth place after firing a coach ahead of the November break when many under-achieving teams look to reboot.

Those clubs are playing without the insurance against failure they planned to have by giving themselves protected places in their own competition. The Super League was launched in April and collapsed within 48 hours amid a backlash from European soccer and governments.

Only Chelsea of the rebel 12 will lead its title chase when domestic leagues resume on Nov. 19. In Spain, Real Sociedad is the upstart atop La Liga and Napoli has edged ahead in Serie A — a full 40 and 32 seasons since each last lifted the trophy.

They are in good company. It was 1935 when Belgian league leader Union Saint-Gilloise last

won the title and 38 seasons ago in 1984 since Trabzonspor was officially champion in Turkey. A season being played after Super League clubs insisted domestic competitions were part of a structure not fit enough for their purposes is showing strength in depth.

"Our members are in general always happy if title races are exciting and surprising," said Jacco Swart, managing director of the 31-nation European Leagues group.

Here's a look at the season so far as fans return to stadiums in big numbers during the third soccer season affected by the pandemic.

SUPER POWERS

The clubs which turned down Super League invitations are faring better.

Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund are clearly 1-2 in the Bundesliga, and Paris Saint-Germain is a runaway leader in Ligue 1 after ceding the title to unheralded Lille last season. PSG's 10-point lead over Lens is an outlier, though Salzburg is 14 points clear after just 14 games in Austria.

Salzburg's dominance, during its second straight season in the Champions League group stage, is evidence for critics who say UEFA prize money distorts the balance in domestic competitions. That does happen, yet a pair of four-time defending national champions — Young Boys in Switzerland and Dinamo Zagreb in Croatia — have both dropped to third place so far.

LONG-SHOT LEADERS

Real Sociedad also had a fast start in the late-

starting season one year ago, leading La Liga into December when storied rivals seemed jaded from playing deep into August 2020.

Still, this campaign shaped to be more predictable and La Real is again back on top. Trailing by one point are Real Madrid and Sevilla which have each played one game fewer.

Barcelona's post-Messi dip amid a financial crisis suggests a Champions League place is open to Real Sociedad after finishing fifth last time.

Napoli has stepped up after defending champion Inter Milan took a step back with its own financial problems. Its fifth-place finish last season was a hard luck story, falling out of a Champions League place only on the last day.

Napoli has come back stronger, tied with AC Milan — without a Serie A title for 11 seasons — as both are unbeaten and seven points clear of third-placed Inter.

Union Saint-Gilloise is giving English owner Tony Bloom a good return on his 2018 investment in its first season back in the Belgian top flight. Bloom is a professional poker player whose Premier League club Brighton has also started well. Union is four points clear of Club Brugge and Royal Antwerp, which are both juggling commitments in European competitions.

TITLE RIVALRIES

The prospect of Chelsea, Manchester City and Liverpool — winners of the past five Premier League titles — fighting for it again with upstart West Ham is why the Premier League is the world's most-watched. □

NASCAR ends season with new champions, new energy

By JENNA FRYER AP Auto Racing Writer

AVONDALE, Ariz. (AP) — In the end, it was a win for NASCAR. Was it "The Best Season Ever," as promised by broadcast partner Fox? No. But NASCAR should pop the champagne — everyone else did.

Its newest Cup Series champion put together one of the best seasons in NASCAR history and capped it with a proper party at Phoenix Raceway, which finally got to fully showcase its \$178 million renovation.

The pandemic limited attendance to just over 8,000 at Phoenix a year ago, when the track hosted its first championship weekend. On Sunday, the sold-out track in the desert had 10 times that number spread through the stands, the infield and the tents lining Rattlesnake Hill.

Kyle Larson capped his comeback from a seven-month NASCAR suspension for using a racial slur with a title-clinching win — his 10th this season, the most since Jimmie Johnson in 2007. The crowd egged on his wife, Katelyn, as she shotgunned beers on the championship stage. Larson snagged a Captain Morgan cocktail at "The Barn," the at-track party-space dreamed up by Jeff Gordon as a spot where winners can share a post-race toast with fans.

Almost two years later, The Barn at last was rocking.

Truck Series champion Ben Rhodes got slightly intox-



cated following his Friday night win. Two nights later, Larson told his wife she needed to pace herself; he himself had vowed not to let the crowd draw him into recreating Rhodes' evening.

"NASCAR fans, they love drinking," Larson said, half a cocktail sitting next to him. Larson had plenty of partying ahead of him as NASCAR on Monday whisked him to Los Angeles to promote its new champion. The first stop was a NASCAR celebration during the Charlotte Hornets' game against the Lakers.

On Tuesday, Larson will tour the Coliseum to promote NASCAR's newest wild idea: Next season will open with a Feb. 6 exhibition race on a quarter-mile short oval built inside the sprawling venue one week before Los Angeles hosts the Super Bowl

less than 10 miles away at SoFi Stadium. Larson, via his new championship, will be the main promoter of NASCAR's charge into the vast media market.

The year wasn't perfect for NASCAR, but by the time the flag flew at Phoenix, the sport at least felt a little back to normal. The campgrounds were filled again and fans roamed the garage bays at Phoenix, where anyone with a ticket could get within a few feet of the cars and stars.

The weekend was NASCAR's biggest event since the 2020 season-opening Daytona 500 before the pandemic.

Larson also gave NASCAR its first Cup champion from its diversity program. He's half Japanese and the first Asian champion. Bubba Wallace, another graduate of NASCAR's diversity pro-

gram, scored his first Cup Series win last month at Talladega.

Larson was suspended all but four races last season for using the slur during an online race. It would have cost him his career had Larson not returned to sprint car racing and also worked off the track to educate himself on social justice issues.

He made it back into NASCAR under the guidance of Rick Hendrick and Gordon, and he's now beloved by racing fans. His past rarely comes up with the focus now on his mind-boggling success.

Gordon, Tony Stewart and Mario Andretti all consider Larson the most talented driver in motorsports right now, and in the grandstands, that's all it takes. The 29-year-old Larson dazzles everywhere, from the big

gest stages to the grassroots rural racetracks, and if given the opportunity to drive a race-winning car in the Indianapolis 500, he said he'd try that, too.

Larson will help usher in the overdue Next Gen car, set to debut at the Daytona 500. Much is tied to the success of this car, which was delayed a year because of the pandemic, and NASCAR hopes better competition, new markets and the introduction of new stars will build momentum for a series many saw as dying just a few years ago.

"We are a stronger sport today than we were pre-pandemic. I would argue with anyone who would say otherwise," NASCAR President Steve Phelps said ahead of the finale.

There is work ahead: Phelps said the industry-wide vaccination rate is "not high enough"; he doesn't know if the pandemic has delayed the reconfiguration of Auto Club Speedway outside of Los Angeles; and NASCAR wants nothing to do with the "Let's go, Brandon!" conservative political cry that was derived from a NASCAR race and is now one of the most prevalent slogans sported by spectators at the tracks.

But otherwise, NASCAR waved the final checkered flag on another long season and did it on a high. The right guy won and Larson proved that NASCAR can be a place for second chances. The next season just three months away. □

India bows out of T20 World Cup beating Namibia by 9 wickets

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — India farewelled coach Ravi Shastri with a win after ending its Twenty20 World Cup campaign beating Namibia by nine wickets on Monday.

Out of semifinals contention, India made sure there was no slip-up with a complete performance: Limiting Namibia to 132-8 and overhauling that with 136-1 in 15.1 overs.

Spinners Ravindra Jadeja (3-16) and Ravichandran Ashwin (3-20) starred in the first half of the last Super 12 match, then Rohit Sharma — dropped by Michael van Lingen at short fine leg in the first over — and KL Rahul smashed half-centuries in the second half. Sharma made 56 and Rahul an unbeaten 54 off 36 balls.

The match was also the last for India bowling coach Bharat Arun and fielding coach Ramak-

rishnan Sridhar, while Virat Kohli captained India for the 50th and last time in T20s.

"Big thank you to all those guys," Kohli said of the team staff. "They've done a tremendous job all these years ... they were an extended part of our bigger family. They've contributed immensely to Indian cricket as well."

Tournament host India, the favorite for the title, finished third in its group after losing both of its opening games to eventual semifinalists Pakistan and New Zealand.

"I know we have not gone far in this World Cup, but we have had some good results in T20 and enjoyed playing together," Kohli said. "It's a game of margins ... you talk about two overs of cricket with intent in the first two games and things could have been different. We were not

brave enough."

Namibia had a campaign to be respected, and earned a solitary win against Scotland in the Super 12s.

Jadeja and Ashwin spun out the top order as Namibia slipped to 72-5 and then 94-7 in the 16th over. David Wiese top-scored with 26.

Captain Gerhard Erasmus tried seven bowlers to stymie India to no avail. Jan Frylinck got the consolation wicket when Sharma top-edged a slower delivery and was caught at point.

"Quick turnarounds between games, so we haven't been able to really soak in the experiences," Erasmus said.

"Only once we go back we'll be able to realize we played an awesome level of cricket. We can take a lot of positives." □